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May 21, 1998

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Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

VIA UPS OVERNIGHT SERVICE

RE: Comments on Petition for Rulemaking (File No. RM-9260)

Dear Ms. Salas:

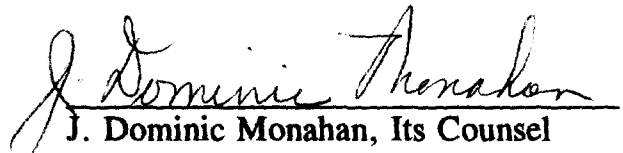
There is transmitted herewith on behalf of Channel 19 TV Corp, the licensee of Station WCEA-LP, Boston, Massachusetts, an original and eight copies of its Comments in the above entitled proceeding.

An extra copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed, as well as a pre-addressed, stamped envelope. Please confirm your receipt of the filing of these Comments by date stamping the extra copy of this transmittal letter and returning it to the undersigned counsel.

Should additional information be desired, please contact the undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

CHANNEL 19 TV CORP.

  
J. Dominic Monahan, Its Counsel

JDM/nlk

Enclosures

cc: Peter Cuenca (w/enclosure)

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in Spanish. Instead, WCEA-LP's programs are tailored to serve the nuances of each different Hispanic sub-culture. Only WCEA-LP provides this particularity and variety in its program service.

Continued existence of this specialized service is in severe danger of termination as a result of the Commission's adoption of the new DTV Table of Allocations. Under the Commission's *Sixth Report and Order*, in MM Docket No. 97-268 (FCC 97-115), Channel 19, which is presently authorized to Station WCEA-LP, has been reallocated as a DTV channel to Station WGBH-TV, which is also licensed to Boston, Massachusetts, and presently operates on Channel 2. At such time as Station WGBH commences operation, petitioner must cease operation.

Although Channel 19 petitioned for reconsideration of the Commission's *Order* and sought some equitable redress in order to continue operation, its appeal was rejected by the Commission. Thus the instant proposal of the Commission to create a new Class A TV service provides the most realistic opportunity to avoid displacement of the low power television services which has been long established in the Boston market, providing substantial local programming service to the Hispanic community.

Channel 19 has undertaken extensive research to determine what, if any, television spectrum remains available for use as an alternative LPTV authorization in the Boston market. Channel 19 continues to pursue such a channel with the objective that an equivalent channel will be located. In the event that the engineering search

provides for such a channel, Channel 19's extensive record of providing substantial local programming to the Hispanic community clearly justifies its qualification for preference under the newly proposed Class A TV service. Its public service record to date justifies it be awarded stability for any continued and future operation.

Channel 19 respectfully submits that the creation of a service awarding preferences under the new Class A service to establish low power operators clearly services the public interest, particularly where a low power minority operation has sought out and provided relevant programming to a growing number of minority groups which are not otherwise provided with specialized programming by the more conventional television broadcasters. In the Boston market this is clearly the case.

The University of Massachusetts in Boston has conducted extensive research assessing the growth of the Latin population in the Boston market and the special problems attendant to that demographic group. Statistically the large Hispanic presence in Boston warrants that extraordinary steps be taken to protect an established broadcast service that community has come to rely on.

In 1990 over 8.7% of the work force in Suffolk County, one of the key components of the Boston market, was comprised of Hispanics. Suffolk County had a 1990 population of some 664,000 persons. Essex County, another component of the Boston market, has a Hispanic work force component of almost 5%. The population of Essex County in 1990 exceeded more than 670,000 persons. Worcester and Middlesex Counties, which are also components of the Boston market, had

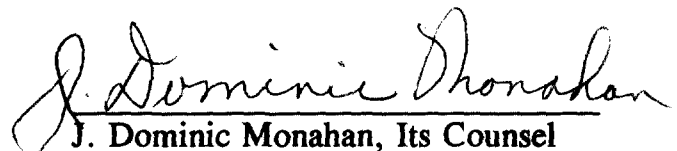
respective Hispanic work force components of 3.1% and 2.8%. Clearly the Hispanic community makes up a significant element of the Boston population.

Moreover, the Hispanic population in Boston almost doubled between 1980 and 1990. Since that time there has been no significant development, which indicates that this growth rate has not diminished in any way. In short, Boston has a growing Hispanic community which is vastly underserved by over-the air television.

Protecting the need for continued service to the Hispanic community, it is imperative that the Commission go forward with efforts to stabilize and protect over-the-air low power television service which specializes in service to the Hispanic community. Channel 19 strongly urges that the proposal to adopt a Class A television service, which would enhance and strengthen this form of video service, is clearly consistent with the Commission's overall public interest obligations. Channel 19 clearly supports the proposal and urges the Commission to adopt the Class A Television Service on an expedited basis.

Respectfully submitted,

CHANNEL 19 TV CORP.

  
J. Dominic Monahan, Its Counsel